San Bernardino County reports 7 more coronavirus deaths, 83 more cases

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San Bernardino County reported 7 more <u>novel coronavirus</u> deaths Tuesday, April 21, as cases went up by 83.

Sixty-seven people in the county have died from COVID-19 and 1,489 people have tested positive for the disease caused by the novel coronavirus, according to the county.

That's up from 60 deaths and 1,406 cases reported Monday, April 20. Of those 1,406 cases, 312 or 22%, were residents and staff at skilled nursing facilities in the county, Gary McBride, the county's chief executive officer, told the Board of Supervisors Tuesday morning, before the case update. Twenty-eight of the 60 reported deaths are associated with the facilities, he said.

In the county of more than 2 million residents, 13,928 people have been tested for COVID-19. Of those, 10.7% tested positive.

Most of the cases, 681, are among people 18 to 49 years old, while 438 were 50 to 64 years old, 330 were older than 65 and 39 were 2 to 17 years old, the county's data show. The age of one patient was unknown.

Females made up 49.9% of the cases, while men were 49.6%. The gender of .5% of patients was unknown.

The number of filled in-patient beds is starting to level off, which could indicate that the stay-at-home, social-distancing and face-covering orders are helping flatten the curve, McBride said.

"All of those things are bearing some fruit," he said. "It's a good sign."

Meanwhile, an alternate care site has been set up at the National Orange Show Events Center in San Bernardino to care for asymptomatic COVID-19 patients or those with mild-to-moderate symptoms. This will allow the hospitals to focus on more severe cases.

The Orange Show would be used only if there's a surge and it's needed to handle an overload of COVID-19 cases, according to the county.

If the county needs more space, a site also could be set up at the county fairgrounds in Victorville, McBride said.

"Hopefully we don't need them, but we want to be prepared just in case," he said.

While Gov. Gavin Newsom has laid out criteria for reopening the state, county officials, too, are having daily conversations about what a local reopening would look like.

"We're very much aware that people need some relief from what they're doing and everyone is going through a lot of pain and misery through this crisis," Board of Supervisors Chairman Curt Hagman said.

In the meantime, state and county orders aimed at slowing the spread of the virus remain in place.

However, one thing is certain — everyone needs to continue wearing face coverings, physically distancing and keeping good hygiene, Hagman said. Otherwise, the county would be back to square one, he said.

"The gains we're getting from our habits right now are a good thing," Hagman said. "We need to maintain those habits moving forward. With that, we're working very hard to find those steps we can do to reopen our county."

CASES BY COMMUNITY

Numbers in bold indicate a community is in the top 5 for the highest number of cases.

Adelanto: 14 cases

Angelus Oaks: 1 case

• Apple Valley: 19 cases

Barstow: 10 cases

Big Bear City: 2 casesBig Bear Lake: 4 cases

Bloomington: 18 cases

• Blue Jay: 2 cases

Chino Hills: 52 cases

• Chino: 93 cases

Colton: 39 casesCrestline: 5 cases

• Fontana: 172 cases

• Fort Irwin: 2 cases

Grand Terrace: 15 cases

Hesperia: 46 cases

Highland: 58 cases

Joshua Tree: 4 cases

Landers: 3 cases

Loma Linda: 26 cases

Mentone: 7 cases

• Montclair: 20 cases

Morongo Valley: 6 cases

Oak Hills: 7 cases
Ontario: 92 cases
Phelan: 3 cases
Piñon Hills: 2 cases

Rancho Cucamonga: 85 cases

Redlands: 77 casesRialto: 62 casesRimforest: 1 case

Running Springs: 2 cases
San Bernardino: 164 cases
Twentynine Palms: 8 cases

Upland: 51 cases
Victorville: 68 cases
Wrightwood: 1 case
Yucaipa: 162 cases
Yucca Valley: 13 cases
Undetermined: 73 cases

Staff Writer Nikie Johnson contributed to this report.